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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/031,207	07/02/2002	Stig Bakke	HAMSO20.001APC	2457

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EXAMINER

HEWITT, JAMES M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3679

DATE MAILED: 05/08/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/031,207	BAKKE, STIG	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	James M Hewitt	3679	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 July 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 5-7 and 9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4 and 8 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☒ None of:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) <u>5</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

Claims 1-9 are objected to because of the following informalities:

- ✓ In claim 1 lines 6-7. "the connected position" should be replaced with "a connected position".
- ✓ In claim 1 lines 9-10, the phrase "which is formed with a view of cooperating with" should be replaced with "which cooperates with".
- ✓ In claim 1 line 13, "having" should be replaced with "of".
- ✓ In claim 2 lines 4-6, the phrase "characterized in that...socket-like element of the end piece," should be replaced with "characterized in that the inner sleeve and the socket-like connecting element of the end piece".
- ✓ In claim 3 line 4, "coiled tubing" should be replaced with "pipe".
- ✓ In claim 4 lines 20 and 23, "outer sleeve" should be replaced with "elongate adapter sleeve".

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

✓ In claim 2 line 2, it is unclear what is meant by the term "the double axial length". For examination purposes, the claim will be considered to require the axial length of the outer adapter and connector sleeve to exceed the axial length of the inner adapter sleeve.

In claim 2 lines 7-10, the phrase "so that the conical extent...to one sleeve wall thickness" is awkward and confusing. For examination purposes, lines 7-10 of claim 2 will be considered to require the conical extent of the outer adapter and connector sleeve and the socket-like connecting element to have a tapered wall thickness which together defines a substantially uniform wall thickness when the two parts are connected.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 3, 5-7 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Itoya (US 3,972,547) in view of Meripol (US 3,248,135).

With respect to claim 1 and with particular reference to the embodiment shown in Figures 12-14, Itoya discloses a connector for connecting the end portion of a pipe (36), wherein the connector is provided with at least one connecting device (10) for threadingly engaging and attaching equipment/tools, the connector comprising parts that can be screwed together and have aligned bores for the accommodation of the pipe end portion, which is to be secured in the connector in the screwed-together condition of the parts, the connector further comprising a radially inner transversally shrinkable (or compressible) adapter sleeve (50), which is to bear in a connected position at its inner circumferential surface in a clamping manner against the outer jacket surface of the pipe end portion, characterized in that the adapter sleeve includes an externally threaded jacket surface which cooperates with a surrounding outer adapter and connector sleeve (14) with an internal threaded circumferential surface, the outer adapter and connector sleeve being formed to cooperate with a threaded jacket portion of a socket-like connecting element (threaded end on right side of component 10 in Figure 14) formed on an end piece of the connecting device (10). Itoya fails to teach that the external threaded surface of the inner adapter sleeve and the communicating internal threaded surface of outer adapter and connector sleeve are conical. Meripol teaches a coupling comprising an outer adapter and connector sleeve (20) having a conical internal surface which cooperates with a mating conical external surface of an inner adapter sleeve (28). In view of Meripol's teaching, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the internal surface of Itoya's outer sleeve (14) with a conical surface and the external

surface of his inner sleeve (50) with a mating conical surface in order to more tightly secure and better retain the pipe (36).

With respect to claim 3, wherein at the end located the furthest from the end piece with the socket-like connecting element, the outer adapter and connector sleeve is formed with an inward annular flange defining a sleeve core section of a diameter generally corresponding to the outer diameter of the pipe. Refer to Figure 14.

With respect to claim 5, wherein the end piece is adapted to receive downhole equipment at the end (threaded end on left side of component 10 in Figure 14) substantially opposite from the socket-like connecting element.

The threads permit attachment of downhole equipment and therefore make the end piece adapted to receive downhole equipment.

With respect to claim 6, Itoya does not disclose whether the external threads (52) of the inner sleeve are left-handed or right-handed. Nevertheless, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to employ left-handed threads depending on the thread type of the sleeve (14).

With respect to claim 7, Itoya fails to teach that his inner sleeve includes threads on the inner surface thereof that bite into the surface of the pipe to resist displacement of the inner sleeve relative to the pipe. Meripol's inner sleeve includes threads (29) on the inner surface thereof which engage the outer surface of pipe (18) to resist displacement of the sleeve and to prevent withdrawal of the pipe. In view of Meripol's teaching it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the inner surface of Itoya's inner sleeve with threads

in order to resist displacement of the inner sleeve relative to the pipe and to prevent withdrawal of the pipe.

With respect to claim 9, wherein the external threads of the inner adapter sleeve transfers external torque on the connector so as to further tighten around the pipe so as to resist circumferential displacement of the inner adapter sleeve relative to the pipe.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 2 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 4 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the claim objection set forth in this Office action.

Claim 8 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the claim objection to claim 1, and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.


Conclusion

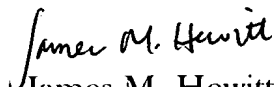
The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Cowles, Katz, Martelli et al, Al et al, Luckenbill, Robertson, Manchester et al, Cox, Pearson, and Reneau all constitute prior art devices considered by the Examiner to be relevant to the claimed invention(s).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James M Hewitt whose telephone number is 703-305-0552. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 930am-600pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynne Browne can be reached on 703-308-1159. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9326 for regular communications and 703-872-9327 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1113.


jmh
May 1, 2003


James M. Hewitt
Patent Examiner
Technology Center 3600